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E- Newsletter

Welcome to Issue #5:

Inside Transportation News is a vehicle for sharing relevant information with transportation and planning professionals and other National Park Service partners.

Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Lands – Kevin Percival, National Park Service

The U.S Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has announced the solicitation for project proposals for FY 2006 funding under the new [Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Lands Program](#). You can access the Federal Register Notice and the project proposal templates from this link. [Note to NPS readers: Go to [InsideNPS](#) for details regarding agency- specific requirements]. The project proposals must be received by the designated agency contact by no later than May 5, 2006. For further information, please contact Kevin Percival at kevin_percival@nps.gov

Service Times and Capacity at National Park Entrance Stations – Jonathan Upchurch, National Park Transportation Scholar



A long queue of vehicles at park entrance stations during peak season is a problem at many national park units. "[Service Times and Capacity at National Park Entrance Stations](#)" will be of interest to park superintendents, chief rangers, facility managers, fee managers, and park planners. Data collected at Arches National Park and Grand Canyon National Park was analyzed to determine capacity. The report describes how similar calculations can be made for parks with different conditions. In addition, three case studies demonstrate how service times and capacity information can be used to design new or replacement entrance stations. The report also presents strategies to reduce waiting times, including use of automated lanes.

New and Improved Transit Fleet for Harpers Ferry National Historical Park – Marsha Wassel, National Park Service



Harpers Ferry National Historical Park has received six new 37- passenger, fully accessible buses to replace the current older fleet that shuttles visitors between the Cavalier Heights Visitor Center and the Lower Town District of the park. The new [Park Explorer](#) buses are fuel efficient, quiet, and run on bio-diesel fuel. The Harpers Ferry bus system is operated under a government contract with PanTram, a regional transportation company in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia. Since the bus system first came on line in June 1990, they have recorded 7 million riders—helping to reduce traffic congestion and to improve air quality in the park and adjacent town. Under a new bus plan, larger buses will transport park visitors during spring, summer and fall months. Smaller, 17- passenger mini- buses will serve visitors during the winter months. In addition, the lower town bus terminal has been renovated, quadrupling the number of buses that can provide service at one time, while offering improved visitor safety and park aesthetics.

An Assessment of Road Impacts on Wildlife Populations in U.S. National Parks – Anthony P. Clevenger, Western Transportation Institute, Montana State University

Research for the [assessment of road impacts on wildlife populations in national parks](#) is coming to completion, and a manuscript will be published at a future date. Data was obtained by surveying 194 national park units and their staff responsible for resource conservation. A total of 117 national park units returned a completed survey for a 60% response rate. For more information, please contact Dr. Clevenger at tony.clevenger@pc.gc.ca. You can view his September 2002 report to Parks Canada at: www.praxis.ca/banfftwinning/pdfs/ClevengerReport2002.PDF

Increasing Transit Ridership – Transportation Research Board

The Transportation Research Board's Transit Cooperative Research Program interim guidebook on ["Elements Needed to Create High-Ridership Transit Systems"](#) examines a full range of actions, initiatives, and special projects with the potential to increase transit ridership. The report is designed to assist transit managers and their staff, policymakers, and key regional stakeholders by describing strategies that have proven successful at creating high ridership.

Maintaining Transportation Assets – Transportation Research Board



The Transportation Research Board's Transportation Research Circular ["Maintenance and Operations of Transportation Facilities: 2005 Strategic Vision"](#) presents the major trends that affect maintenance; current and emerging innovations in management systems, technology, and intelligent transportation systems; and some of the key maintenance challenges of this century. This document discusses implementing performance-based management systems, development of public and private partnerships, and maintenance contracting.

Using Scenarios to Assess the Impact of Air Pollution in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park – Peretz, Tonn, Reed and Robles, University of Tennessee

SAGE Publications has generously given us permission to share this article from their October 2005 issue of Public Works Management & Policy. ["Using Scenarios to Assess the Impact of Air Pollution in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park"](#) addresses the ozone created by privately owned automobiles that will exist in the park in the year 2025, if current trends continue. The research examines the implications of reducing vehicle travel in 139 counties within a 100-mile radius of the park.

New Transportation Research – Transportation Research Board



Two new planning resources are available from the Transportation Research Board. ["Integrating Sustainability into the Transportation Planning Process"](#) will be of special interest to the national park planning community. This report explores issues and strategies related to integrating sustainability into surface transportation facilities and operations. The Transportation Research Circular titled ["Innovations in Statewide Planning: A Peer Exchange"](#) summarizes a July 2005 peer exchange on innovations in statewide planning.

Inside Transportation News reflects a compilation of research, reports, and opinions from a variety of authors and partners. The opinions, reports, and research may not reflect the policies and views of the National Park Service.